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J-5129

18 December 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT : The Clandestine Services Historical Program Report for July to December 1968

REFERENCE : Report for the Period January to July 1968

1. This memorandum for your information only, provides a six-month progress report on the activities of the Clandestine Services Historical Program for the period July - December 1968.

2. PRODUCTION: During this period 27 CS historical papers have been written, edited, typed, bound and delivered to the responsible component and one copy of each to your vault. Sixteen of these have been completed during the last quarter. At the present time, fourteen papers are in process in this office, and 89 are in various stages of completion in the responsible component. To show the numbers of histories in process and completed by each component, I have attached a listing by component to this report. As you will note, some components have completed 0%, and some as much as 35% of their scheduled objective. The reason, in most instances, I believe, is the attitude taken by the component chief. EUR, for example, whose chief has always been a strong supporter of the program, has 20 completed histories; others have yet to start writing their first one. These figures give some indication of how much more remains to be done in recording our first 20 years.

3. PERSONNEL: The number of persons actively engaged in the preparation of CS history has, of course, varied greatly over the past six months. As of now, there are 29 persons at work in the components; this figure includes both

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writers and clerk-typists. Of these 29, 19 are staff employees and 10 are contract. Of the latter, three contracts expire 31 December 1968, and the rest of them expire by the end of the fiscal year. On our own staff, both our editors are contract employees. One of these completes his contract on 3 January and is being replaced by a staff employee; the other has been extended until 30 June 1969 by which time it is expected he will be replaced by a staff employee. We have three contract typists whose contracts expire in 1969.

4. QUALITY OF PERSONNEL: It hardly needs emphasizing that to do our histories well requires special talents and interests: first the interest in undertaking the job, and then the knowledge of the subject matter, the will to do the necessary research, and lastly, the ability to write a coherent, intelligible story. Since researching and writing are not usually the abilities we are looking for in CS case officers, it is not surprising that persons with all the above-mentioned abilities are not easy to find. When we do find them, we would like to retain them, whether they are staff or contract, as they produce a better product faster than those without these talents. Thus, while BALPA has been of help to the program, it has supplied neither the numbers of people nor the talent expected of it last spring.

5. The Clandestine Services Group of the Historical Staff has continued to give a great deal of excellent help to writers. It has also produced three publications: a chronological listing of staff and division chiefs, and individual compilations of station and base chiefs for Africa Division and WH Division copies of which are also in your vault; compilations for the other area divisions are in process.

6. While the LBJ Library project is not a part of the CS Historical Program, it deserves brief mention here since a good deal of work has been done for it by three of the people allocated to the CS program: Mr. [REDACTED]

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7. THE FUTURE: As you know, Professor Howard M. Ehrmann has spent the past year studying the Agency's historical effort and making recommendations to the DCI. His latest recommendation calls for a slightly enlarged staff, but no word has been received as to whether these recommendations will be approved and put into practice. If they are, they will affect the other three directorates more than they will the CS Program, which remains largely unchanged.

For the CS Historical Board,

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[Redacted]
Executive Secretary

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